

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

Commission Meeting

September 21, 2005

Governor Office Building, Jefferson City

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance:

Loretta Charleston, Rep. David Pearce, Kent Thomas, Robert L. Welling, Rep. Terry L. Witte, Dalton Wright, Senator Frank Barnitz,

Others in attendance:

Sharon Gulick, DED; Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard (for Gen. Sidwell); Aaron Washburn (for Sen. Koster); Jared Craighead.

Making presentations:

Rod Nunn, Director, Workforce Development; Randy Cottrell, DWD; David Peters, MERIC.

Media:

John Davis, Missouri Net; KLIK

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Rep. Pearce requested that the reference in the minutes regarding consultant hired to assist FLW and WAFB be clarified to read: "Rep. Pearce said that the amount of the VSA contract was consistent with what the communities and organizations supporting Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base spent on their consultants."

Bob Welling moved that the minutes from the August 25, 2005 meeting be approved as corrected. Loretta Charleston seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Mr. Welling expressed his appreciation, along with the Commission, on the tremendous job that the National Guard did to transport children from the area impacted by Katrina to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

ANNUAL REPORT

Rep. David Pearce reported that he, along with Rep. Terry Witte and Sen. Chris Koster, sent a short update report to the members of the General Assembly on the work done to date by the Commission. Speaker Jetton's office inquired if the Commission will have any specific legislation for the coming session. Commission agreed that it was important to complete the annual report no later than December 1st to allow time for drafting and filing of any legislation that may be required or requested.

Members reviewed the draft annual report section by section.

Economic Impact of military posts and defense related industries in Missouri.

Sen. Barnitz stated that he felt that the economic impact of Missouri's military facilities and defense industries are essential. We need to produce a report that contains accurate numbers and hard data. Sharon reported that MERIC is working on an economic impact study that will look at the primary military facilities (e.g., FLW, WAFB and the Missouri National Guard). A draft of this report should be ready for our October meeting and the final is scheduled to be completed by November 1st.

Kent Thomas moved to approve section as amended, Sen. Barnitz 2nd. Motion approved

Business Development & Job Creation

Kent Thomas moved, Bob Welling 2nd motion to approve section as amended.

Military Quality of Life Issues

Commission members decided to allow members to read the comments that have been received from FLW personnel and incorporate the topics, as appropriate, into our action items.

Mr. Welling presented a proposal regarding military family membership on local school boards. Issue is that many military personnel do not have Missouri as their office domicile and are not eligible to be elected to the school board. The proposal that Mr. Welling submitted regarding appointment of members by the Post or Base Commander would not be possible due to military prohibitions for active duty personnel to serve as voting member of an elected board.

Another option would be to change current Missouri law to allow for 2 more voting members on school board (e.g., increase the size of the local school board from 7 to 9 members) and allow the School Board President could accept recommendations from the Post or Base Commander for suggested members to represent the base. Regulations allow for appointed position but prohibit running for election. It was also suggested that a spouse could be recommended by the post or base commander. The School Board President would appoint them to the board, avoiding the prohibition of having the Commander make the appointment. Language would need to be developed to address Missouri law; may also have to adjust the residency requirement. It is unlikely that the federal rules will be changed.

Kent Thomas moved that the Commission recommend to the Missouri General Assembly amend current State statutes to encourage military presence on local school boards. Goal is to require the addition of 1 or more voting members to the school boards in those districts that serve large military facilities. Bob Welling 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Drop F and H; combine G & I; change C

Rep. Witte requested that an action item be added to permit military personnel stationed in Missouri to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at instate rates.

Rep. Witte moved that this section be approved as amended; Sen. Barnitz 2nd. Motion approved.

Members will review the comment forms received from FLW and make additions to this section at the October meeting.

Ex-Military and Retired military initiatives

Sen. Barnitz moved, Bob 2nd motion to add action item “advocate for additional Missouri state military cemeteries.” Motion approved.

Drop "Missouri Dept. of Economic Development to serve as a clearinghouse for employers seeking to hire veterans." It was felt that this activity already occurs through the Division of Workforce Development.

Sen. Barnitz moved Bob 2nd adoption of section as amended. Motion approved

Communication between MMPEC, Missouri Military and MMPEC

It was recommended that the Chair invite the base commander of each major facility to provide a staff liaison to the Commission. These staff members will be added to the Commission mailing list, along with the Base Commander, to be notified of all Commission activities.

With reference to Military Ombudsman, it was recommended that Ms. Pat Rowe-Kerr, Veterans Affairs Ombudsman, Veterans Affairs Commission, be asked to attend the next meeting to provide an update on her activities.

Mr. Thomas recommended that the Commission ask Governor Blunt to expand the functions of Veterans Commission to coordinate with the agencies on the installations to ensure activity duty service members and family members, in addition to National Guard Reserves, have opportunity to access job services provided by Missouri Division of Workforce Development.

Mr. Welling pointed out that our recommendation that statutory change to make the Chair of the MMPEC and the Chair of the Veterans Commission be ex-officio members of each commission

Kent Thomas moved that this section be adopted as amended. Bob Welling 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Encroachment

In coordination with military base commanders determine land expansion needs and formulate strategy to accomplish.

Rep. Witte requested that item D from the 8/25 draft, related to investigating possibility of Conservation Commission acquiring land needed by military facilities be added to the annual report. Modify to say “....possibility of state agencies or local government acquiring or protecting....” Idea would be to hold the land in a land

bank or similar arrangement to ensure future access should base expansion be needed.

Chairman Wright send a letter which included the sign expression of support with regard to the acquisition of additional land around Whiteman Air Force Base to Senators Bond and Talent as well as other members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

Bob Welling moved, Kent Thomas 2nd motion to approve the section as amended. Motion approved.

BUDGET

Commission agreed that this would not be part of the Annual Report.

Rep. Pearce suggested that the Commission put the discussion of a hiring a consultant on the agenda for a future meeting. Mr. Welling asked if the consultant would be Missouri's face in Washington acting as a lobbyist or would he/she just be a source of research and information? Mr. Wright felt that the lobbying activity would be a policy issue that should be directed from the Governor's Office. We need to determine our needs before we take any action on hiring a consultant. Rep. Pearce said that some states have a lobbying office in Washington that focused just on military issues. Mr. Washburn said that Jared Craighead's function was to act as Missouri's lobbyist in Washington. A consultant/lobbyist could prove to be helpful to acquire additional missions at Missouri's facilities. Consensus was that it was critical that this Commission have a budget that would allow the Commission to hire a consultant to address the "preparedness and enhancement" aspect of the Commission's role. A consultant would give the Commission additional "clout" if we had that level of responsibility. Consultant would also be our "eyes and ears" in Washington and help identify opportunities or threats to Missouri's military facilities.

Mr. Thomas suggested that rather than a "lobbyist" that what is needed is a consultant/advocate to access the possibility of enhancement or losses to Missouri with regard to future BRAC or similar initiatives and to pursue the initiatives of the Commission as outlined in the enabling legislation.

Kent Thomas moved that the cost of this consultant/advocate be placed in the DED, or other appropriate state agency, FY07 budget. Bob Welling seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Staff was asked to research cost of such a consultant and look at what is being done in other states.

The Commission also felt that it was important that the Commission had a specific budget request to fund the cost of this consultant and other Commission expenses.

Question was raised about the staff person serving the Commission. Felt that the enabling legislation established that DED was to provide a staff person to the Commission and that that staff member was to be accountable to the Commission.

Commission requested that items that require legislative action, budget issues, etc. be highlighted at the beginning of the Annual Report.

Federal Assistance for Dislocated Workers

Rod Nunn and Randy Cottrell with the Division of Workforce Development and David Peters with MERIC provided the Commission on Missouri's plans to provide assistance to the workers dislocated by the BRAC recommendations.

The \$1million federal grant is to address needs of dislocated workers and to try and provided needed training or services to keep them in Missouri. Discussed Missouri plans to address the dislocation of workers in Kansas City, St. Louis Metro and Ft. Leonard Wood area impacted by BRAC.

Approaching in a multi-phase plan:

1. Local BRAC planning: task forces will be formed in Kansas City, St. Louis and Ft. Leonard Wood to conduct local planning to address needs. Planning grants will be provided to St. Louis and Kansas City for \$225,000 each and \$50,000 to Ft. Leonard Wood. Goal is to have a seamless service delivery mechanism to ensure access to services. Looking at national best practices for use of closed facilities – try to match retraining of workers to the intended use of the closed facilities.
2. Specialized Career and Workforce Services: MERIC will conduct employer survey to determine anticipated impact by facility closures as well as determine current and future needs; doing survey every 6 months for next 3 years; will use data to target training needs; create web application for worker transition;
3. State Project Coordinator: DWD will hire a project coordinator for a two year period. Coordinator will act as liaison to local task forces, maintain website and assist with local planning efforts.
4. BRAC Web Portal: State will develop a web portal for all BRAC task force members, service providers, employers, etc to provide latest information on state and local planning efforts, best practices, career and workforce information, etc.

Mr. Nunn clarified that these funds are strictly to address dislocated workers and does not address preventing future BRAC losses in Missouri. These funds will be used to create the plan, but if there are plans to use, for example, Customized Training Funds, those funds would have to come from a different source. There will be specific federal funding available for training.

Chair Wright requested that DWD keep the Commission informed of activities. Randy Cottrell will provide updates to Sharon Gulick. Brig. Gen. Sidwell will be member of the Planning Group and he will act as liaison to the Commission.

Allen Stark reported that there is currently a fair amount of recruitment activities going on from other facilities in other states trying to get staff to relocate. Ms. Charleston reported that the majority of the National Guard and Reserves will have

community and family connections that will probably preclude them from relocating to another state; however, this may not be true for staff at HRC and DFAS.

BRAC

President Bush approved the recommendations. Now is up to US Congress to vote up or down.

On Friday, September 16th Governor Blunt directed Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon to resume the state's legal challenge to the federal government's plan to close the 131st Fighter Wing in St. Louis.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, Oct 19th:

10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Room 494 Truman Building, Jefferson City

Wednesday, Nov. 2nd:

10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Room 460 Governor Office Building, Jefferson City

In 2006 it was agreed that the Commission meet quarterly. 2006 meeting dates will be set at the October 19th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton C. Wright", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

19 Oct 2005

Dalton Wright, Chair

Date